(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereupon by Government; and

(c) by when the above institution is likely to be set up in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Financial hurdles in OBC reservation

2132. SHRI K.P.K. KUMARAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are hurdles in his Ministry's endeavours to get enough funds to implement new proposals with reference to the O.B.C. quota expansion to Higher Education from the academic year 2007-08;

(b) whether since this involves emotive problems and the Ministries of Human Resource Development and Finance would sit jointly with the Planning Commission to evolve an amicable solution; and

(c) whether special funds will be earmarked for the implementation of all the recommendations of the Oversight Committee headed by Veerappa Moily?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) An amount of Rs. 2698.00 crores has been provided in the budget estimates of the Ministry of Human Resource Development for the year 2007-08 for implementation of the Central Education Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006.

Expansion of Navodaya Vidyalayas

2133. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has identified 200 districts with predominantly SC/ST population, based on 2001 census, for expanding the Navodaya Vidyalayas;

(b) whether this proposed expansion of Navodaya Vidyalayas will be taken up from the current budget year and if so, whether adequate allocation have been made in the current budget; and

(c) whether reservation for SC/ST communities in these schools will be in accordance with the Apex Court's directives capping the reservation limit to 50 per cent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) Planning Commission has intimated that a proposal to set.up Navodaya Vidyalayas in those districts which have significant Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population was placed before the Group of Ministers on Dalit Affairs. The proposal comprised 208 districts on the basis of 2001 census figures. Planning Commission has further informed that no formal decision has been taken in the matter. A provision of Rs. 275.00 crore has been made for the purpose in the budget for 2007-08.

Utilisation of funds under SSA

2134. SHRI B.K HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state.

(a) whether the fund utilization for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan for the year ended 31st December, 2006 has improved with Government utilizing more than 75 per cent of the funds available;

(b) whether States like Assam and Orissa, lagging behind earlier, have shown increased utilization of funds; and

(c) whether the improved fund utilization for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is attributed to better project management and a dedicated and motivated team at the ground level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) The States/UTs reported expenditure of Rs. 9770.25 crores till 31st December, 2006, which is 74.33% of total funds available with them under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme.

(b) Assam and Orissa have reported expenditure of Rs. 221.96 crores and Rs. 313.39 crores *i.e.* 55.60% and 61.45% respectively as on 31st